

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 100-2005**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** April 20, 2005

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

**Subject: AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL  
EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) – 2006 BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Attached please find a letter received in my office this morning informing us of the cancellation of the 2006 Biennial International Convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) AFL-CIO, schedule for June 2006. As noted in the letter, this cancellation is due to the conversion of hotel properties to other uses, as well as ownership change leaving another property's commitment unsatisfactory to the group.

By way of specifics, as a union organization, the required hotel block was to have incorporated at least 50% of contracted rooms in union-staffed hotel properties. The elimination of the Sheraton Bal Harbour, a traditionally strong union presence, from the AFSCME block, as well as Turnberry's impending purchase of the Fontainebleau and uncertainty concerning its future union plans, eliminated the ability to guarantee the 50% union requirement at this time.

We have spoken with the GMCVB and while they have made efforts in an attempt to retain this event, they have been unsuccessful.

~~JMG~~ \MMS\DT\rar

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Attachment

c: Tim Hemstreet, Acting Assistant City Manager  
Max Sklar, Tourism and Cultural Development Director  
Doug Tober, SMG General Manager

**RECEIVED**  
**05 APR 22 AM 9:58**  
**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**



Private Management for Public Facilities

## MEMORANDUM

**Doug Tober**  
**General Manager**  
**Miami Beach Convention Center**  
**Jackie Gleason Theater**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Tober", is written over the printed name and title.

To: Jorge Gonzalez  
Tim Hemstreet  
Max Sklar

Cc: Thom Connors

Date: April 19, 2005

Re: AFSCME Convention

Attached please find a letter received in my office this morning informing us of the cancellation of the 2006 Biennial International Convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) AFL-CIO, schedule for June 2006. As noted in the letter, this cancellation is due to the conversion of hotel properties to other uses, as well as ownership change leaving another property's commitment unsatisfactory to the group. By way of specifics, we believe that the elimination of the Sheraton Bal Harbour, a traditionally strong union presence, from the AFSCME block, as well as Turnberry's purchase of the Fontainebleau and questions over its future union plans, were the driving force behind this decision. While the letter appears to be definitive, we have spoken with the GMCVB and they will continue to try to retain this event.

While we strongly believe that the diminishing of union involvement was the overriding factor in this decision, the client's verbiage does beg further discussion surrounding the effects of hospitality product conversions on our ability to attract citywide convention business. I also would point out that we are currently confirmed for two additional citywide union-affiliated groups, the National Association of Letter Carriers in August 2006 and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans in October 2008, and we will monitor those situations closely as to any effects of this cancellation.

I look forward to continued discussion surrounding this issue.



# AFSCME®

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

1625 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-3687  
Telephone: (202) 429-1808  
Fax: (202) 429-1295  
TDD: (202) 639-0446  
Website: <http://www.afscme.org>

April 15, 2005

Mr. Douglas W. Tober  
General Manager  
Miami Beach Convention Center  
1901 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Re: AFSCME 2006 Biennial International Convention

Dear Mr. Tober:

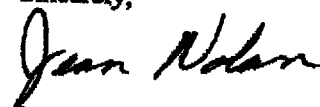
As you are aware, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) AFL-CIO, has been making arrangements over the past couple of years to conduct its Biennial International Convention in Miami Beach, Florida in June 2006. Miami Beach was selected as the location of choice, in large part, because of the existence and availability of several hotel properties, employing union workers, which were capable of accommodating the event and its attendees.

AFSCME was recently notified by several Miami Beach hotel properties, with which it contracted to provide room accommodations and other services, that they would not be able to satisfy their commitments for the Convention due to the conversion of the hotel's property to other uses. We have also been advised by another property that it has been sold and will be under new management, with a company with which AFSCME has no prior experience. The combined effect of these transactions, most of which involve properties employing union workers, seriously impairs AFSCME's ability to hold its Convention in the Miami Beach area.

After careful consideration of all viable options to lessen the impact of these circumstances, AFSCME has determined that it has no alternative but to cancel all arrangements to conduct its 2006 International Convention in Miami Beach, Florida. We have notified all interested entities of this decision and are extending notice to you, as well, as a matter of courtesy.

We sincerely regret having to make this decision and hope that we will be able to conduct business in Miami Beach, Florida in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Jean Nolan  
Assistant to the President

JN:cr

Gerald W. McElroy  
President  
William Lutz  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Vice Presidents  
Ronald G. Alexander  
Columbus, OH  
Ken Allen  
Portland, OR  
Henry L. Beyer  
Chicago, IL  
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George Boncoraglio  
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Jon Corderman  
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Olympia, WA  
Denny Donohue  
Albany, NY  
David A. Feltman  
Harrisburg, PA  
Michael Fox  
Harrisburg, PA  
Albert Garrett  
Detroit, MI  
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New York, NY  
Allen Goff  
Los Angeles, CA  
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David Warwick  
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Jimmie D. Wyatt  
Tallahassee, FL